

**LUNENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

School Committee

David Reif, Chair
Michael Mackin
Jason Poitras - absent
Milree Keeling
Donna White

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Elizabeth Broden

Guests

-
- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – Dr. Reif welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - November 4, 2009 regular session minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - November 23, 2009 executive session minutes – Tabled.
 - December 16, 2009 regular session minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - December 16, 2009 executive session minutes – Tabled.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Lunenburg received the Sportsmanship Award from MIAA. Congratulations to the student-athletes.
 - Bus route changes: One bus is being eliminated, so there will now be ten buses instead of eleven. There will be changes to the following bus routes: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, as a result of the trickledown effect. Changes were articulated and letters were sent to parents prior to the break. Changes will take effect on January 11. Several parents called with questions seeking clarification. Some parents are asking questions around cul-de-sacs and which ones are included and excluded from bus routes. Larger buses are being used to accommodate the increase in students due to the revised routes. Student safety is the first concern. The superintendent thanked parents for taking the time to ask the questions.
 - Superintendent Calmes and Dr. Maureen Marshall, Superintendent of North Middlesex Regional School District, met with members of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education yesterday to update them on the work and discussions that have already taken place between the two districts with regard to the possibility of Lunenburg joining the NMRSD. They were also seeking clarification around the letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Notices have been sent to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen to inform them of the meeting on January 13 between the School Committee and Lunenburg Regional Planning Committee to share information around the discussions with NMRSD; the meeting will be held in the High School library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to bring questions and concerns to that meeting.

- * Public Comment – Joanna Bilotta of 362 Sunset Lane addressed the committee. She expressed her concern that all the residents of Lunenburg are not getting the same treatment with regard to the bus route changes. One hundred students are now inconvenienced and the others are not. The bus route changes were not done fairly across the board. She feels the school department is discriminating against the 100 children. Superintendent Calmes explained the trickledown effect and that most of the routes have been changed and are picking up additional students and may have more stops. The superintendent also stated that we are still gathering information around the cul-de-sacs and which ones the buses go down now and which ones they have gone down in the past. We are looking to make these changes in a fair and equitable way. There was discussion around what is a fair solution and a solution that everyone would perceive as fair.

- * New Business
Action

- a. Foreign Exchange Student – Superintendent Calmes recommended that the policy committee meet with the high school administration and guidance department around incorporating a foreign exchange student in mid-year. One concern is class size. Discussions should take place prior to arrangements being made with the student and host family. The particular student is from Columbia and will be living with the Paolini family from January 2010 to January 2011. Superintendent Calmes provided some details of the student and his interests and recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. There was discussion around course selection for the student and class size in the fall. Vote: unanimous.
- b. Donation – Superintendent Calmes recommended the acceptance of a \$15.00 donation from Family Federal Savings Bank. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.
- c. Donation – Superintendent Calmes recommended the acceptance of a donation of electronic tools and parts valued at approximately \$2,000 from Mr. John Connery. These tools will benefit the LHS electronics and tech engineering programming. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Dr. Reif would like the tools checked out to make sure they are functioning properly before students use them. Vote: unanimous.

8. Old Business

Action

- a. Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding – Mr. Chad Adams and Superintendent Calmes attended a district leader summit today sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The superintendent provided a synopsis of the federal Race to the Top grant program, which is tied to Title 1 funding. The district could receive approximately 15 percent more than it currently gets for Title 1. Specific activities within a framework are required. There was some discussion around education reform. Districts would be working in partnership with the state and each other if funding comes forward. The application is not fully written and articulated at this point in time. Funds would be used to build capacity in order to meet the needs of all learners. Superintendent Calmes feels comfortable signing the MOU after today's meeting. In April the state will hear if funding is granted and then districts that signed on will have the opportunity to write a work plan. Ms. Keeling moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to sign the MOU with the state as presented at the recommendation of the superintendent. Ms. Keeling asked the superintendent some clarification questions. The district does not need to match any of the grant funds; our investment is in time and effort. Funds could be used for current initiatives. Lunenburg could receive about \$22,000 a year for 4 years. In signing the MOU, we are committing to write a work plan. In order to move forward, the superintendent, the School Committee Chair, and the LEA President all need to sign the MOU. Vote: unanimous.

- b. Strategic Planning – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the discussion to date around strategic planning, including the hiring of a facilitator, forming a steering committee, etc. She would like to initiate the Request For Quotes to hire a consultant. Five thousand dollars has been earmarked for this project to include substitute costs, printing materials, consultant fee and other materials. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to move forward with the RFQ. Ms. Keeling reminded everyone that it is a law that school committees have a strategic plan in place. Superintendent Calmes reviewed the proposed timeline. Vote: unanimous.
- * Public Comment – Brian Laffond from the Finance Committee asked where the \$5,000 was coming from. The superintendent replied that it is out of school operational funds.
- * Reports
- a. Students – Ms. Broden reported that progress reports went out prior to vacation.
 - b. Advisory Committee
 - c. Finance Committee
 - d. School Councils
 - e. PTO
 - f. Policy Sub-Committee
 - g. Capital Planning Committee – Mr. Mackin reported that the CPC met on Tuesday and talked about the schools. Mr. Londa gave a very thorough and detailed proposal of capital needs at that meeting.
 - h. Health Advisory Committee
 - i. PAC/SAL
 - j. Regional Planning Committee
 - k. Rep. Benson’s Advisory
 - l. Other
- * Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion
- complete foreign exchange student policy discussion
 - opt-out discussion
 - bus transportation
 - discussion around head injury protocol
- * Items for Future Discussion
- workshop sessions
 - facilities use procedure
 - civic engagement
- * Executive Session – None
- * Adjournment – Ms. Keeling moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to adjourn regular session at 8:15 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/22/14/mel